

I. SUMMARY OF THE REJECTIONS/OBJECTIONS

Claims 2-7, 9-14, 16 and 18-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,748,192 issued to Lindholm ("Lindholm"). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

II. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS BASED ON THE PRIOR ART

A. Claims 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 13, 16, and 18

Independent Claims 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, and 13 each includes the limitation of "covering the target area in an aperiodic tiling pattern with tiles generated from said texture image." (Emphasis added). Independent Claim 16 includes the similar limitation of "a plurality of texture tiles generated from said texture image and arranged on said screen display in an aperiodic pattern." (Emphasis added). Independent Claim 18 includes the similar limitation of "means for covering the target area in an aperiodic tiling pattern with tiles generated from said texture image." (Emphasis added).

However, Lindholm does NOT disclose an aperiodic tiling pattern as in the above limitations. Instead, Lindholm discloses, in col. 28, lines 45-52:

The METRICS option provides an automatic scaling after a user specifies a curve length. Periodicity is controlled by the APERIODIC/PERIODIC selections and the AUTO TANGENT/EXPLICIT TANGENT selections determine whether the user has control over the tangent vectors at each control point. The OPEN/CLOSED choice allows the user to determine whether the secondary control curve terminates at the end control points or extends to infinity.

(Emphasis added).

Taken in its correct context, this text refers to an aperiodicity of a control curve, and NOT an aperiodicity of a tiling pattern. The text refers to a curve length, control points, and tangent vectors. Consistently, FIG. 7 of Lindholm shows a periodic control

curve 140 and 144 having control points 0-6. FIG. 7 of Lindholm also shows an aperiodic control curve 142 having control points 0-6 and tangent vectors extending from either end of the aperiodic control curve, as described in the cited text. Thus, while Lindholm discloses aperiodic control curves, Lindholm does NOT disclose an aperiodic tiling pattern. A control curve is not a tiling pattern.

In fact, Lindholm discloses, in col. 38, lines 6-7, that “many different patterned arrangements of patches including periodic pattern arrangements” are permitted. However, Lindholm discloses, in col. 38, lines 33-34, that “[t]he patch configuration is required to be rectangular with N_c columns and N_r rows.” (Emphasis added). Consistently, FIG. 14 of Lindholm shows a patch configuration 260 that is rectangular and that consists of a periodic arrangement of rectangular patches 262. Thus, while Lindholm discloses a periodic pattern arrangement, Lindholm does NOT disclose an aperiodic tiling pattern. In fact, because Lindholm discloses that a patch configuration is required to be rectangular with columns and rows, or in other words, periodically repeated rectangles, Lindholm teaches that a patch configuration **MUST** be periodic, and not aperiodic.

Therefore, based on at least the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 13, 16, and 18 are allowable over the art of record and are in condition for allowance.

B. Claims 4-6, 11-12, 14, and 19-25

Claims 4-6 and 22; 11-12, 14, and 23; 24-25; and 19-21 are dependent upon Claims 3, 10, 16, and 18, respectively, and thus include each and every feature of the

corresponding independent claims. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 4-6, 11-12, 14, and 19-25 are allowable for the reasons given above with respect to Claims 3, 10, 16, and 18.

III. CONCLUSION

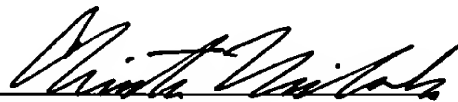
For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any fee shortages or credit any overages Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231

on August 28, 2002

by

